

Jefferson Middle School Council Minutes
November 10, 2009

The Jefferson Middle School Council met in regular session on November 10, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairperson:	Tammy Kelly
Principals:	Howard McGlennen, Brandy Corbett
School Representatives:	Annette Beckwith, Carol Ann Knight, Lindy Pals
Business Representatives:	
Parent Representatives:	Dewayne Ansley, Tammy Kelly, Mary King, Sara Mixon, Cindy McMullan, Angi Thompson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA:

Tammy Kelly made a motion to accept the minutes from September 4, 2009, and Angie Thompson seconded the motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

GAPSS Review

Brandy Corbett gave a summary of the recent GAPSS review. Since JMS has met AYP each year, GAPSS is a “needs improvement” process our district voluntarily elected to aid in school improvement. GAPSS uses the School Keys, an 8-strand rubric on all areas of school improvement. We received Commendations and Recommendations. Many of the recommendations have already been in process (example: development of the school leadership team), but it confirms we are moving in the right direction as we approach accreditation from the *Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI)*.

NEW BUSINESS:

Common Assessments

Dr. April Howard has been working with departments to move away from the benchmark system (Online Assessment System – OAS) to common assessments. The state OAS system has been too problematic (technical errors, testing errors, and poor question quality). To provide quality, reliable tests, two teachers from each grade level devised the tests to cover the standards they have taught in classes. The teachers have reported that this has helped with pacing and understanding the content. Using scantron forms, teachers are able to run an item analysis to understand what questions students missed and with what standards they are struggling. Teachers pulled from several sources to develop questions (Coach books, OAS – selective questions, released items, etc.). This will provide a wider variety of vocabulary for students.

Success of Fall Extra-Curricular Programming

JMS has achieved a high level of success with Fall programs:

- Band and Chorus concerts received strong reviews
- Athletics
 - Softball – 2nd
 - Boys Cross Country – won
 - Girls Cross Country – won
 - Cheerleaders – going to Savannah to compete in state meet
 - Volleyball – won
 - Football – won undefeated for NEGA

We are purchasing banners for the gym to recognize students for these achievements.

We are also planning to put in a new trophy case.

Parent Portal

Jackie Keith, registrar, has been working with parents during the transition to Infinite Campus. For any parents requesting login numbers, we can email or send home login information with their student (for protection). We have now added grades. As we move into increasing the amount of grading information we share with parents, we are working on setting guidelines for maintaining consistency in grading. We are excited about this new ability to increase parent awareness and involvement in grading, and we ask for patience as we learn the system together.

Other Concerns

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

JMS School Council will meet again on January 26, 2010 at 8:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Angie Thompson made the motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Dewayne Ansley. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.